

*Rhodostethia rosea*; it breeds only within the Arctic circle, and even beyond lat. 82°. The Brant stock has differentiated along three lines, now recognizable, and fairly well represented in different longitudinal areas. The most distinction has been acquired by *B. nigricans*, in which, besides the black belly, there is a large and nearly complete white collar, shown by neither of the other two; in other words, the Black Brant buttons its collar in front, and wears a black vest. This is probably a specific character. Waiving the question of taxonomic rank, I wish to call attention to the fact that, as shown by Mr. Seebohm (Hist. B. B., VI, p. 508, 1885), two races of *B. bernicla* are distinguishable, and ours is the one which needs a name. It is true that the difference between them is not great, and not strictly correspondent with geographical distribution; and that Salvadori makes no distinction (Cat. B. Br. Mus., XXVII, 1895, p. 119). But a difference does exist, it is to some extent geographical, and I could name perhaps fifty birds in the A. O. U. List with no better claim to recognition by subspecific name. The white-bellied bird, largely or mainly North American, is *Bernicla glaucogaster* Brehm, Isis, 1830, p. 996, *nomen nudum*; *B. brenta*, a. *glaucogaster* Bp., C. R., 1856, p. 648; and *Anser brenta glaucogaster* Seebohm, *l. c.*, where the distinction is pointed out in the following terms: "In the Taimur peninsula, in Nova Zembla, Franz-Joseph Land, and Spitzbergen typical *Anser brenta* breeds, having the under parts generally as dark as those of the Pacific species [our *B. nigricans*], but with the white on the sides of the neck not meeting in front. In Arctic America, from the west coast of Greenland as far west as the Parry Islands, and north of lat. 73° as far as land is known to extend, the white-bellied form of the Brent Goose (*Anser brenta glaucogaster*) breeds; it has the underparts below the breast almost pure white and the white on the sides of the neck does not meet in front. Both the two latter races and intermediate forms between them occur on our [British] coasts; but the white-bellied form is much the rarer of the two." This is in substance the evidence upon which I propose that we recognize *Branta bernicla glaucogastra* in the A. O. U. List. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Wood Ibis in Virginia and Maryland. — On July 20, 1896, an adult *Tantalus loculator* was killed by Mr. Rudolph Thiele in his barnyard at Silver Hill, Maryland, near the District of Columbia line. There were two; the other, an immature bird, flew away about half a mile and was killed soon afterwards on the same day by Mr. Arthur Suit of Suitland. Both were mounted for the above named gentlemen, and I saw the fresh skins. On the 27th of the same month another, an immature female, was shot in an oat field near Laurel, Maryland, and sold to and mounted by Mr. Geo. Marshall of that place, in whose collection it now is. On July 18, 1896, three others, an adult and two immature birds, were shot by two boys at Vinitarville, Goochland County, Virginia, and the wings and

other parts forwarded to the National Museum by Mr. R. S. Allen for identification.

I have a cutting from a Richmond, Virginia, paper, name and date unknown, which notes the occurrence in New Kent County of four Wood Ibises, one of which was shot by Mr. W. J. Taylor and the head and wing exhibited in Richmond. The date was evidently the summer of 1893. Two, an adult and a young, were killed in Washington, July 2, 1892, as previously mentioned in 'The Auk,' (X, 1893, p. 91).—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**A North American Snipe New to the A. O. U. List.**—Swainson in Sw. and Rich., *Fn. Bor.-Am.*, II, 1831, p. 501, describes *Scolopax leucurus* sp. n., from Hudson Bay, and says that "a single specimen of this bird in fine and perfect plumage, exists in the British Museum." It is a large species with 16 rectrices, whereof the three outer pairs are almost entirely white. Swainson's type is still extant in the British Museum, and has been identified with *Gallinago major* by Dr. Sharpe, who cites *S. leucurus* among the synonyms of this species, and catalogues Swainson's type from "Hudson's Bay" (*Cat. B. Brit. Mus.*, XXIV, 1896, p. 628 and p. 631). The specimen appears as one of a large lot acquired by the British Museum by purchase from the Hudson Bay Company many years ago, to none of which does any doubt of locality attach; and as there is obviously no reason to call Dr. Sharpe's identification in question, we may rely upon the record for the following addition to our Check-List:

[230.1.] *Gallinago major* (GM.).

**Greater Snipe.**

*Scolopax major* GM. *Syst. Nat.* 1, 1788, p. 661.

*Gallinago major* KOCH, *Syst. Baier. Orn.* 1816, p. 313.

**GEOG. DIST.**—Europe, Asia and Africa. Accidental in North America ("Hudson Bay").

There may be a question about the specific name of this bird, under our Procrustean rules. According to Dr. Sharpe's synonymy, it is *Scolopax media* Frisch, 1763, and *Gallinago media* Gerini, 1773—both antedating Gmelin's *S. major*. Dr. Sharpe sensibly passes over *media* and adopts *major*—for to call a bird *media* in Latin and Greater or Double Snipe in English would be absurd. I hope some way can be found to square common sense with the Code in this case—if it cannot be, so much the worse for the latter.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Occurrence of *Tryngites subruficollis* in the New England States.**—There are several instances of the capture of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Connecticut and Massachusetts which do not appear to have been recorded. This Sandpiper, although common in certain sections in the West, is not very often met with along the North Atlantic seaboard.